



Loop 303 ribbon-cutting

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer
Saturday, August 16, 2014, 9 a.m.
Loop 303 & I-10 underpass

Thank you, Director Halikowski ... and good morning, everyone.

I'm thrilled to be on MY side of town today to celebrate Arizona's newest freeway completion, one that promises to be a huge economic driver for the West Valley, and a vital transportation corridor that helps address local traffic concerns.

This ribbon-cutting marks the final connection in a long-promised outer loop that links Interstate 10 in Goodyear to Interstate 17 in north Phoenix.

And it's very fitting that this route – the Bob Stump Memorial Parkway – is named for a true champion of the West Valley ... and a great, patriotic American, who used to farm cotton not so far from this very spot.

I'd like to recognize Bob's wife -- my good friend -- Nancy, and their children: Karen, "Hoot", Bruce, and Keri Lee ... and their many grandchildren. It's an honor that you are here today.

I think Congressman Stump would be proud that we saw this project through to completion.

Clearly, this is so much bigger than just a freeway expansion. It opens up our state to the growing communities in the West Valley -- expanding commerce and easing travel throughout the region.

At one time, it was considered too remote out here in the shadow of the White Tank Mountains to attract industrial and commercial development.

Today, this critical transportation project is a catalyst for amazing development opportunities in this burgeoning business, residential and industrial corridor through the Southwest Valley, Surprise and Peoria.

Even the promise of a future Loop 303 has generated economic activity along its path --including the Prasada Development in Surprise, as well as the Sub-Zero manufacturing plant and the Dick's Sporting Goods distribution center in Goodyear.

As a matter of fact, in Surprise alone, six auto dealers have opened or will do so right by Loop 303, producing more than 150 Million dollars in annual sales – and hundreds of jobs.

And there are big plans for more exciting economic growth further north, where the freeway winds its way through North Peoria and Phoenix.

I've said before that economic development is the foundation of a prosperous and livable community, and transportation infrastructure is central to that economic growth.

Arizona's prosperity requires a strong and efficient transportation network – one that serves commuters, businesses and interstate and international trade.

Corridors like Loop 303 show foresight and determination to address an identified transportation need, in both the short and the long term.

I firmly believe if we are to keep our robust Arizona Comeback moving forward, we must continue to invest wisely in projects like this; investments that will open our communities to lucrative business growth that spurs job creation.

In the past decade alone, ADOT has built more than 100 miles of new freeways in Metro Phoenix – an unimaginable accomplishment in most regions.

It is forward-thinking projects like this that helped Forbes Magazine recently rate Arizona as the Number One state for expected job growth.

And I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the innovation, expertise, and cooperation of the Arizona Department of Transportation, the Maricopa Association of Governments and all the cities along the route for getting this important project finally completed.

I note that Maricopa County officials are here as well. They deserve special recognition for having the foresight to invest in and maintain this critical corridor for many years before turning it back over to the State.

Today, Loop 303 – the Bob Stump Memorial Parkway -- can finally fulfill its promise of a new road to prosperity in the West Valley – and a growing and thriving example of what continues to be Arizona's economic comeback.

This culmination of this project exemplifies community partnerships, good planning, and prioritized infrastructure funding that will reap amazing benefits for generations of Arizona families and businesses.

I know everyone here shares our pride in seeing those years of hard work and teamwork pay off today with the final connection in a truly impressive transportation corridor.

Thank you.